NRO

NRO

TOP SECRET
OXCART/IDEALIST/CORONA/ISINGLASS/[redacted]

25X1A

25X1A HANDLE VIA [redacted] Attachment to [redacted] 25X1A
CONTROL SYSTEM

NRO

1. The Office of Special Activities, Deputy Director for Science & Technology (OSA-DD/S&T), was formed for the purpose of conceiving, developing, producing, and operating integrated covert photographic and electronic intelligence collection systems utilizing sophisticated and advanced scientific and technological instrumentation and vehicles. The organization is comprised of a small contingent of scientists and engineers working closely with support specialists (administrative, contractual, personnel, finance, logistic, communications, security, and operations officers) and industry for the purpose of achieving maximum speed and efficiency in carrying out its assigned mission.

2. Among the more significant accomplishments of this component have been the development of the U-2, the A-12, and the CORONA Satellite Programs.

3. The development of the U-2 from drawing board to first flight was accomplished in the short span of only eight months. In addition to U-2 development, OSA has continued its responsibility for program management, product improvement, and operational control.

NRO

OXCART/IDEALIST/CORONA/ISINGLASS/[redacted] 25X1A
TOP SECRET HANDLE VIA [redacted] CONTROL 25X1A
SYSTEM

NRO

4. At the time that the U-2 became operational, it was generally assumed that the life expectancy of the program would be two years. Therefore, the technical personnel of OSA proceeded to develop a follow-on supersonic aircraft. The A-12 is the product of their efforts.

5. There is little doubt that without the foresight of OSA, an aircraft with the advanced characteristics of the A-12 would not be in existence today. The operational concept envisages a world-wide reconnaissance capability from a United States land base. It is expected that a completely operational configuration will be attained in early 1965.

6. The revolutionary development of camera systems for the U-2 Program motivated OSA to consider satellite photography applications. In concert with USAF, OSA subsequently initiated a research and development program to provide acceptable intelligence photographs taken from earth satellites. The result of this effort has been the highly successful CORONA Program, the accomplishments of which greatly exceeded original expectations, and has also led to a family of related systems.

7. The Office of Special Activities is now focusing

its capability on more advanced manned aircrafts, and satellite systems to obtain indications intelligence data and ELINT.